

take place on January 7 in that Central American country is free and fair. By doing so, the Clinton administration would help ensure that the Guatemalan people not only develop trust in their own electoral system, but further appreciate the benefits of living in a democracy.

ALEC COURTELIS, AN AMERICAN
HERO

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 3, 1996

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to a true American hero, Miami civic leader Alec Courtelis, who died last week after a courageous 2-year struggle against cancer. My sincere condolences go to his wife Louise, son Pan, daughter Kiki, and sister Danae Voyazis.

As former President Bush said after this unfortunate loss to our Nation and south Florida, "Who says there are no heroes any more? Just look at the life and legacy of Alec Courtelis." Although 68 years old and in a fight for his life with pancreatic cancer, Alec continued his tireless work for the many causes in which he believed.

The story of Alec Courtelis' life is an inspiration for all those who know that the American dream is still a reality for anyone, regardless of their background. An immigrant who came to this country from Alexandria, Egypt, Alec always rejoiced in America's unlimited opportunities. He lived his life by the motto that "nothing is impossible in America."

He emigrated to Miami in 1948, a city that has welcomed many immigrants from around the world. After earning his engineering degree at the University of Miami, his company helped build many prominent commercial and residential developments in south Florida, including the Falls shopping center.

A successful self-made businessman, he gave much back to the Nation and our community which had given this opportunity. He raised funds for the cause of education in Florida, including the University of Miami and the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine. As State University Chancellor Charles Reed said, "No one in Florida has made a greater contribution to the betterment of this State than Alec Courtelis."

But the greatest example he set for all of us was in the last years of his life when he showed what real courage is all about. He took the time to give great encouragement to many cancer patients in their fight with this dread disease, showing them that through positive mind-therapy, they could win against this disease.

Like the man in Rudyard Kipling's poem "If," which was used in his funeral services, Alec Courtelis truly showed that:

If you can fill the unforgiving minute
With sixty seconds' worth of distance run,
Yours is the Earth and everything that's in
it,
And—which is more—you'll be a Man, my
son!

STATEMENT BY UNDER
SECRETARY JOE R. REEDER

HON. RONALD V. DELLUMS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 3, 1996

Mr. DELLUMS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring to your attention and to the attention of my colleagues, an exceptional statement delivered by Joe R. Reeder, Under Secretary of Defense. Mr. Reeder's analysis is one that merits our attention. I herewith submit his statement to be included in today's CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

WORLDWIDE CONTINUING LEGAL WORKSHOP,
OCT. 3, 1995

It is a pleasure to be back in Charlottesville. The first time I came to this city was in the fall of 1976 for the JAG basic course. I was glad it was only for two months because the cavaliers were suffering through some of the worst football in their history.

I also came back and taught a course as a reservist in 1981. The head of their school was Bill Suter, who later became TJAG—and as you know—is now with the Supreme Court.

I look fondly back upon my time in the JAG Corps and have acquired friends and experiences in the corps which will always be special to me.

That is why I was very pleased when Gen. Mike Nardotti asked me to share some thoughts about our Army—where we are now—where we are going—and your role in the challenges we face.

Let me start with the bottom line on America's Army.

Today's soldiers are the most highly motivated, best led, best trained, and best equipped fighting force in the world. No one disputes that—even those who would like to.

Day in, day out, we have soldiers operating in 60 to 100 countries around the world—an average of over 20,000 American soldiers are on operational deployments. That's in addition to the 120K men and women permanently stationed overseas.

If you think back to the changes made over the last 5 years—you see an active army that has gone from 780 thousand to 515 thousand seen its budget nose-dive from \$90 billion to just under \$60 billion—and at the same time see its missions skyrocket 300 percent.

Those cuts would have severely wounded, if not crippled any other army, or large corporation. But not the U.S. Army.

Thanks to the Army's leadership including many of you in this Room. The Army is as ready as it has ever been—and certainly more ready than we were 5 years in Desert Storm.

In many respects this Army just keeps getting better. One concrete example is "vigilant warrior" in Kuwait last October.

During operation Desert Shield it took almost 30 days for our Armored Forces to arrive in Saudi Arabia. This time, the lead elements of our heavy forces—not 82d Paratroopers or 10th Mountain Division Light Fighters—but tankers from the 24th ID were on the ground in under 72 hrs.

In 2 weeks, 2 brigades of the 24th were in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, linked up with their prepositioned warfighting equipment. Within 3 weeks, over 30 thousand servicemen were in theater—equipped for war.

Now let me touch on what lies ahead for our army.

I see several major challenges facing their army leadership.

First and foremost, we have to be tougher as our resources shrink. And I do not expect

their resource picture to brighten anytime soon.

I read a poll in the Army Times a few weeks ago which proclaimed that two-thirds of the American people believe the defense budget should be reduced further.

There's just not enough money to cover all our needs. Tough choices have to be made.

Secretary Perry's top 3 are clear and unequivocal.

Our first priority is near term readiness. We cannot afford to let this slip. After the Superbowl, the 49ers get an offseason. They can eat, drink and get fat for a few months. That is a luxury your Army does not have.

Our next priority is quality of life—which surprises some people—but I see it as a steel chain link to readiness.

Quality of life directly relates to our ability to attract and retain quality people.

We face the critical challenge of finding and keeping quality people. The soldiers we have in uniform today are the best ever—hands down.

Easily the most important change in the Army in the past 25 years is the quality of our soldiers.

Last year, I had the opportunity to dine with Gen. and Mrs. George Blanchard. As some of you know, Gen. Blanchard was the Army CINC in Europe in the late 70s. He was also my Div Cdr in the 82d ABN Div.

About half way thru the meal, he turned to me said, "Joe, it hurts me to admit this, but I have got to tell you the soldiers today are better than when I served."

I agreed, but asked why he said that. He said for two reasons:

First, the all-volunteer Army and second, the way we treat soldiers today—among other things, their quality of life.

I told him he should not feel bad—because the quality of today's Army is his legacy.

I also told him I had a different perspective, in one respect maybe a better perspective than his. Rather than having lived through that change, I left the Army in the late 70s and was gone 14 years.

Coming back in 1993, I had the benefit of not having watched that process of change in a slow, gradual way, . . . I can tell you the difference was like night and day.

We must continue recruiting and retaining high quality people.

Our third priority is modernization. Modernization dollars have shrunk dramatically. We have been hit harder here than anywhere else.

Your Army, best in the world, but only eight in size cannot afford to lose any more modernization dollars.

We are accepting some risk in this area for two reasons.

One, our superior technology completely outmatches the entire world. We expect that no country will come close to competing with our existing systems for the next 10 years.

And two, we expect to achieve cost savings from BRAC and acquisition streamlining that will allow us to reinvest these savings into our modernization program.

We must always maintain technological superiority. This is one of my greatest concerns.

Anyone who thinks it was decency or goodness that caused Saddam Hussein or General Cedras to back off when faced by American soldiers, lives in a dream world.

In Haiti and Kuwait, lives were saved from the ravages of war—not out of goodness—but out of a knowledge of what our soldiers could and would do if forced to fight.

Technology overmatch—by deterring—saves lives. It saves not only lives—it saves money—by allowing us to maintain a smaller and more effective Army, and avoiding the prohibitive, gut-wrenching costs of war.